

# The Sword

Volume 31, Special Holiday Issue Concordia College, 275 North Syndicate, St. Paul, MN 55104

Monday December 18, 1995

## A Seasonal Message From the President

May the blessings of Christmas fall like snow in your life—beautiful and bountiful. May the holidays truly be holy days in which love of God, family and friends are beautifully and bountifully recognized and celebrated. Trees and travel, cookies and carols, gifts and good food enhance the days but may the heart of the

matter remain God's peace that goes beyond human traditions or tinsel. I wish each of you a very happy vacation, filled with meaningful relaxation and inspiring spiritual reflection. Please join in the prayer which provides the theme for our choral concerts this year.

"Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
From our fears and sins release us.

...  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

...  
Now your gracious kingdom bring.  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
Raise us to your glorious throne."

May God bless all with grace and peace.  
Merry Christmas.

President Bob Holst

## He Said

By Andrew J. Everard

A deep laugh pierced the room as a gray-haired man, aged before his time sat in a worn out lazy-boy chair. From appearance, he looked comfortable rocking back and forth creating a certain rhythm. He wore a pair of gray sweatpants, an old stretched-out undershirt and nothing on his cold feet, as his light green eyes watched the familiar t.v. set. Sure he looked comfortable, but inside him there was tension swelling up. There were business calls buzzing in his ears and deadline dates floating in his head.

He would sit in his favorite chair every night trying to relax, but there was always something worrying him that couldn't always be pushed back in his mind.

He was a very important man to his family, amongst his many friends, and business partners.

The life of the party, as one would say, was he. He was always keeping people on their toes with his lovable jokes and laugh. "Just do your best, and if you do all you can, I am proud of you," he would say whenever one had a worry.

Every human loved this man and knew all his funny ways. What no one, not even he, knew was the silent sickness that washed through his body. From the outside he looked well, but silently, he was ill. No one would think he would be sick, not a man so happy and so great. So that one sad day, as silently as it came, so silently it took him away to a far away place where his lovable laugh could piece the sky.

Happy Birthday DAD...I will always love you!

—Andrew

## She Said

by Bethany Moritz

Busy shopping malls, making list, my grandma's brussle sprouts, and an extra five pounds. This are all things I could do without at Christmas. Unlike others though, I still feel excited when Christmas rolls around. I get so sick and tired of people complaining of how Christmas is a Government constructed holiday that was made to help our economy. Or how Christmas is all about who gives the biggest gift and who receives it. Christmas is the remembrance of our dear Lord's birth. And if you have a hard time remembering that every year, then let this article be a reminder. Now in light of all the controversy, that me just say that these are only my feelings about Christmas and in no way reflect the opinions of the school. (I feel that needed to be said.)

Now, there is nothing wrong with sharing and receiving gifts with others, it is all part of the beauty of the holiday. However, I do think that there is something wrong when people constantly complain about all the shopping and all the hassle they have to go through during Christmas to do this. I am sorry, but I have no pity for you at all. Why? Because Christmas is a time when we can

show our love for others. I think giving gifts is a great way to show your love for other. The Wiseman traveled from afar to bring gifts for Jesus, and we complain about traveling to the Mall of America. Try getting there on a camel!

Christmas is also a time when we can gather together with our families and friends, and thank God that we have each other. How often do we get to see our relatives besides holidays? We should be thankful for the time the government gives us off to be with our families.

Christmas also gives us more opportunities to help others who are less fortunate than we. When we are given two weeks off, maybe we should go out and do something for others, instead of setting at home watching reruns of Ricki Lake.

Finally, it is a time when we can reflect on the best gift of all, Jesus Christ. It may sound corny, but Jesus is the reason for the Season. It sad that people who complain about Christmas have to be reminded of this.

So if anyone ever complains to you about Christmas, tell them to put a stocking in it!

Merry Christmas Everyone, and God Bless!



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*We would like to apologize for the delay in releasing our next regular issue. Look for a full issue shortly after break! Have a safe and happy Christmas Break.*

*-Your Friends at The Sword*



## Concordia Speaks

This issue's question was going to be "What Christmas movie has your life most resembled?" However, everyone I asked responded with either *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* or *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. I wanted a question that would elicit more varied and unique responses, so I asked various Concordia people: **What is your best or worst Christmas memory?**

"When I was young, my brother and I would go out to the pond behind our house and play broomball with all the neighborhood kids. Then we'd build forts and have snowball fights all day."

**-Wendy Stoeckman, freshman**

"When I was in second grade, I sang a *Silent Night* solo in the Christmas pageant, and I ruled."

**-Geoff "Chaucer" Klaas, sophomore**

"One of my worst Christmas memories is one year, I woke up my sister at three in the morning and told her the stockings were hung and filled, so we took them down and brought them into the bathroom to look at them. By the time we had all our presents out and spread around us, my dad got up to go to the bathroom. We were in trouble. We ended up crying all Christmas morning. It was awful."

**-Jen Slinkman, senior**

"On my third Christmas my sister was born and on Christmas morning I found her under the tree in a stocking."

**-Don Mayo, junior**

"One year, our house got broken into on Christmas, and they opened all our presents and took half of them. The year before that we were being really obnoxious, so our parents took back all our presents that were from them. That next year on the different holidays like Valentine's Day and the Fourth of July, we got Christmas presents, still wrapped in Christmas paper to remind us that we'd been bad kids."

**-Dawn Keim, freshman**

"My favorite memory is something I did with my youth group. We told all the parents that we were going to do something special, and we wanted them to ask all the godparents and grandparents and everyone who was important in the kids' lives to write a letter explaining how the kid had been a gift to them. We didn't tell the kids what we were doing. Then, two nights before Christmas, we had all the kids come to the church, and they were served a candlelight dinner. Then we went in the sanctuary where there was a wrapped box for each kid, each with his or her name on it, containing all the letters for them. Afterwards, all the kids said it was the best present they'd ever gotten."

**-Pastor Gerry Coleman**

## Lost and Found Rocks CSP Again

by Amy Klein

On Monday, December 4, the Concordia campus was once again blessed by the musical talents of guitarist Michael D. Bridges and pianist George Baum, who perform under the name "Lost and Found." They rocked the Chapel in a 90-minute concert. This alternative band may not be a household name, but those who have been lucky enough to hear them, love them. One college student, the friend of a Concordia student, flew in from Iowa just for the concert. Concordia is full of loyal fans, even groupies. It is a rare day when you can walk around campus and not see at least one "Sikkibahn", "Hearts on Fire" or "Oh Them Lions" T-shirt.

How can you explain their great popularity? Freshman Jen Dahlinger said, "They really talk to you and they talk on your level." Pastor Coleman,

a long-time friend of George and Michael, said "They're effective in communicating. They speak to people. People listen to what they say." "And they have really cool hair," added sophomore Geoff Klaas. They are very good at getting the audience involved at their concerts. "A side effect of the Lost and Found concert is I'm very sore," said junior Don Mayo.

People often try to be funny by asking which one's lost and which one's found. As Michael explained during the concert, their name comes from the line "I once was lost but now I'm found" from the hymn Amazing Grace, and also from the fact that we're all lost and found at the same time.

"We weren't always called Lost and Found," Michael said. "We used to periodically change our name so we'd get invited back to places." This was on their first tour, which their fans like to talk

about. They rode their bicycles the entire way: 8,500 miles, 270 concerts in 340 days. "That's when we kind of started," Michael said during a pre-concert interview. "We played at little churches and then they'd call us back and ask us to play at their youth gathering or (other events)."

Michael said they don't like it when people call what they do "Christian music." "People are Christians; music isn't," he explained. "We play original music with lyrics informed by a relationship with God...Our favorite thing for people to say to us after a concert is 'I don't like Christian music, but I liked you guys.' We feel like we are serving a group of people who are not typically plugged into the industry of Christian music. We're not a part of that industry. We're a part of the Church."

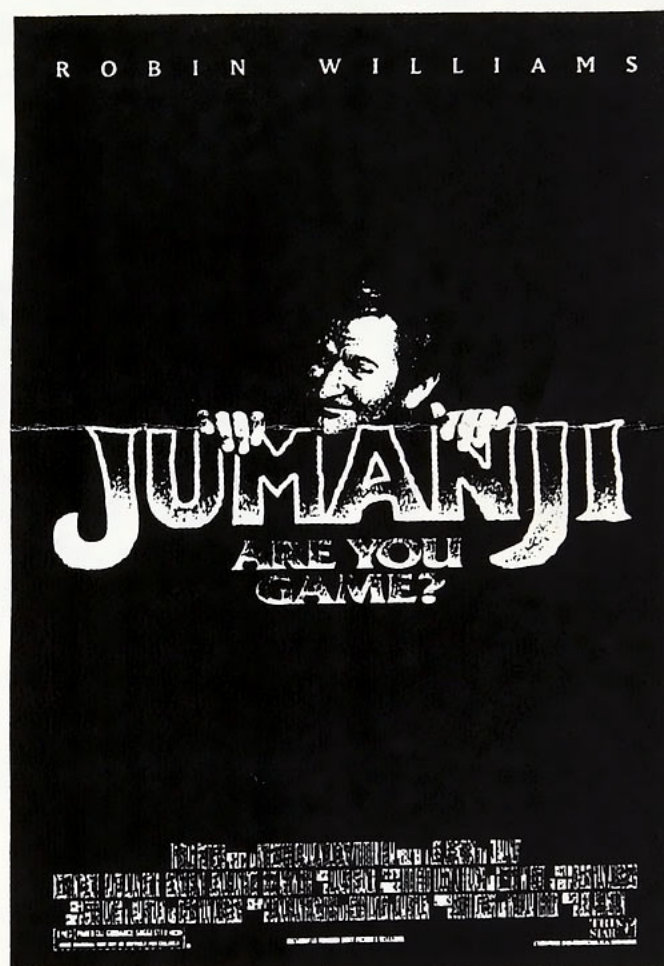
## Tourney Time! (Sort Of)

By Timothy P. Lucht

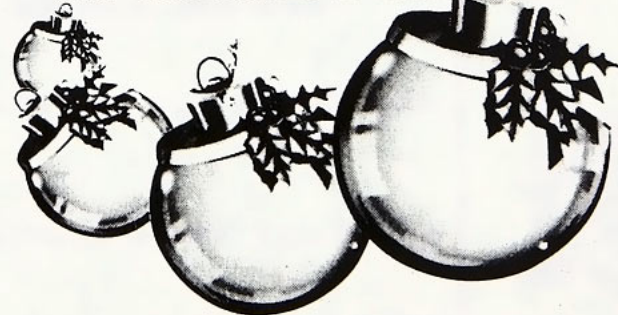
Even though the holidays have not yet arrived, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would also like to say I hope that everyone has fun watching the Football games on New Year's eve and New Year's day.

As a former high school wrestler, this is the time of year my teammates and I could not wait for, because every year at the Blaine Sports Complex there is the Annual Christmas tournament which runs from December 15- 17. My teammates and I made it an annual event to go to watch some of the best high school wrestlers in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and California. There are 44 teams that compete not only for individual wrestler honors but also for the team title. The winners of the tournament have always gone on to gain high state rankings as well as the honor of being nationally ranked by the U.S. Wrestling Association.

My high school coaches would never enter my teammates and me into this tournament because it uses up 10 of the 30 matches allowed by the state high school league. The wrestlers in this tournament are dreaming of the same thing my teammates and I would always dream about and that is winning a major tournament, which was something we did on more than on occasion. If you are looking for something to do before the Christmas break, you should stop by the Blaine Sports Complex and check out some of the best high school wrestlers from around the nation.



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